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**Title:**

Press release: Conservation and environmental protection

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PRESS RELEASE FROM THE PREMIER, MR. DUNSTAN.

7/12/71.

"The South Australian Government was willing to back its conservation ideals with dollars", the Premier (Mr. Dunstan) said tonight.

He was speaking at a public meeting at Blackwood organised by the Belair and Blackwood Sub-Branch of the Australian Labor Party.

The Premier said he believed the Government had established a record in the area of conservation and environmental protection which was second to none in Australia.

"This is a Government which cares about the natural world around us and which is determined to do all it can to ensure that it is not spoiled; that we can pass on to our children a heritage which they too can enjoy."

Mr. Dunstan said that there had been a dramatic increase in the number of national parks proclaimed since Labor was returned to power - from 67 to 95.

"There had been a new spurt of progress in preparing development plans for South Australian regions.

"There had been a significant increase in the legal protection given to historic and Aboriginal relics.

"Latest historic reserves include Burke's grave at Innamincka and extensive Aboriginal stone arrangements at Poverty Bay."

Mr. Dunstan said that democracy itself demanded that planning for preservation could not be precipitate.

"Citizens and Local Councils must be allowed their say before restrictions are imposed.

"The planning authority, has, quite necessarily evolved an elaborate series of steps in its procedures involving democratic consultation.

"But, of course, once we come to the end of the line, the policies agreed upon and the limits of development drawn, then, but only then, can we say to disappointed developers: no it is too late.

You have had your chance and this is what applies, whether you like it or not," the Premier said.

THE HILLS ENVIRONMENT

by Don Dunstan, Premier of South  
Australia.

AN ADDRESS GIVEN TO A PUBLIC MEETING IN THE R.S.L. HALL, BLACKWOOD  
CALLED BY THE BELAIR-BLACKWOOD SUB-BRANCH OF THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR  
PARTY, TUESDAY 7 DECEMBER 1971.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

OUR ENVIRONMENT HAS ALWAYS BEEN WITH US, THIS IS NOW A LITTLE HARD TO  
BELIEVE. IT DOES SEEM AS IF IT WERE DISCOVERED YESTERDAY. WHAT HAS  
HAPPENED, OF COURSE, IS THAT MAN'S ENCROACHMENT ON HIS NATURAL  
SURROUNDINGS HAS, IN MANY PLACES AROUND THE WORLD, REACHED DANGER POINT.  
ALARM SIGNALS HAVE GONE UP ALL AROUND THE GLOBE. ENVIRONMENT HAS BECOME  
A WORD WITH NEW MEANING.

WE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA ARE STILL, BY AND LARGE, PRETTY WELL OFF BUT THE  
MESSAGE IS THERE FOR US TOO. WHICH IS WHY THE STATE GOVERNMENT HAS  
RE-SHAPED ITS CONSERVATION SERVICES TO MEET THESE NEW DEMANDS.  
WE HAVE, I BELIEVE, ESTABLISHED A RECORD IN THE AREA OF CONSERVATION AND  
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION WHICH IS SECOND TO NONE IN AUSTRALIA. THIS BEGAN

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WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY AND HAS PROGRESSED FROM  
HERE. THIS IS A GOVERNMENT WHICH CARES ABOUT THE NATURAL WORLD AROUND  
US AND WHICH IS DETERMINED TO DO ALL IT CAN TO ENSURE THAT IT IS NOT  
SPOILED AND THAT WE CAN PASS ON TO OUR CHILDREN A HERITAGE WHICH THEY TOO  
CAN ENJOY.

IF I MAY INITIALLY QUOTE SOME SPECIFICS IN OUR LOG OF ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR:

- THERE HAS BEEN A DRAMATIC INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF NATIONAL PARKS  
PROCLAIMED SINCE WE TOOK OFFICE. THERE WERE 67 AS AT THAT DATE.  
THERE ARE 95 NOW - THE LATEST ONE BEING ANNOUNCED TODAY.
- THERE HAS BEEN A NEW SPURT OF PROGRESS IN PREPARING DEVELOPMENT PLANS  
FOR REGIONS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA. THE ONE FOR THE MID-NORTH WAS RECENTLY  
RELEASED, THOSE FOR KANGAROO ISLAND, THE SOUTH-EAST AND THE FLINDERS  
RANGES WERE RECENTLY PRINTED. THE RIVERLAND PLAN IS NOW BEING  
PREPARED.

. THERE HAS BEEN A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE LEGAL PROTECTION GIVEN TO HISTORIC AND ABORIGINAL RELICS. LATEST HISTORIC RESERVES INCLUDE BURKE'S GRAVE AT INNAMICKA AND EXTENSIVE ABORIGINAL STONE ARRANGEMENTS AT POVERTY BAY ON THE WEST COAST.

. SOUTH AUSTRALIA NOW HAS 116 FAUNA SANCTUARIES COVERING 1,880,000 ACRES AND 75 FAUNA RESERVES TOTALLING 15,000 ACRES.

THERE HAS BEEN THE SAME SPIRIT OF DYNAMISM IN THE BROADER POLICY AREAS WHICH DO NOT LEND THEMSELVES TO THE SAME KIND OF STATISTICAL ANALYSIS. OBVIOUSLY THERE IS VERY MUCH MORE TO BE DONE. BUT I BELIEVE THE START MADE IS CONVINCING PROOF OF OUR DETERMINATION TO SAVE SOUTH AUSTRALIA FROM THE RAVAGES OF WATER POLLUTION, AIR POLLUTION, NOISE POLLUTION AND VISUAL POLLUTION WHICH HAVE ALERTED THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PUBLIC. WE CAN BE PROUD FOR EXAMPLE, OF THE FORESIGHT OF OUR ENGINEERING AND WATER SUPPLY DEPARTMENT, A GOVERNMENT AGENCY WHICH CAME VERY WELL INDEED OUT OF THE SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE'S ENQUIRY INTO WATER POLLUTION, AND MEASURES TO CONTROL IT, THROUGHOUT ALL STATES.

THE ENGINEERING AND WATER SUPPLY DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN WORKING AWAY QUIETLY FOR YEARS TO ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF THE VITAL HILLS WATER ATTACHMENTS. THE STERN MEASURES THEY HAVE TAKEN IN THE PAST YEAR OR SO, INCLUDING THE PURCHASE OF A WHOLE TOWNSHIP, AND THE BARRING OF SUB-DIVISIONS IN WATERSHEDS OR NEAR WATER COURSES, WERE NOT DONE ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT. THEY WERE THE RESULT OF THE BEST SPUR TO ACTION OF ALL - THOROUGH PRELIMINARY RESEARCH.

BUT THIS E. & W.S. PROTECTION OF THE WATERSHEDS ALMOST SEEMS LIKE ANCIENT HISTORY NOW. ENVIRONMENT ISSUES COME THICK AND FAST. AND ONE OF THE LATEST WAS HERE IN THE ADELAIDE HILLS.

FOR I HAVE NOTICED, ALTHOUGH I AM NOT ALWAYS IN THE DIRECT LINE OF FIRE IN THESE MATTERS, THAT SOME OF THE MOST ENTHUSIAST ECO-ACTIVISTS IN THE STATE COME FROM THE HILLS. THERE IS A VERY OBVIOUS REASON FOR THIS. YOU HAVE SO MUCH MORE TO LOSE AND IT IS RIGHT THAT YOU SHOULD BE CONCERNED. BUT BACK TO WHAT I SIDETRACKED MYSELF FROM SAYING, BACK TO THE MOST RECENT ISSUE, THAT OF THE KALYRA SANATORIUM LAND. THIS CONCERNED THE DISPOSAL OF 23 ACRES OPPOSITE AND SOUTH OF THE SANATORIUM AT BELAIR.

LET ME DETAIL THE OPTIONS THAT WERE OPEN TO US ABOUT KALYRA :

1. WE COULD HAVE BOUGHT IT AS A NATIONAL PARK:
2. WE COULD HAVE ADDED IT TO OUR GROWING STORE OF OPEN SPACES:
3. WE COULD BRING IT INTO OUR SCHEME FOR PROVIDING 50% SUBSIDIES  
FOR AREAS BEING DEVELOPED AS RESERVES BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

WELL, FIRST TO THE NATIONAL PARK PROPOSITION. WE SENT ALONG THE SENIOR RANGER TO LOOK AT THE LAND AND REPORT ON IT.

HE WAS NOT NOTICEABLY ENTHUSIASTIC. THE AREA WAS UNCOMFORTABLY SMALL.

AND, PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANTLY, IT WAS NOT - DESPITE SOME DESCRIPTIONS

OF IT TO THE CONTRARY - LAND IN ITS NATURAL STATE. ALMOST THE ENTIRE

VEGETATIVE UNDER-STORY, THAT IS THE SMALLER GROWTH UNDER THE PEPPERMINT

AND BLUE GUMS, HAD GONE. IN ITS PLACE HAD MOVED WEEDS OF VARIOUS KINDS,

INCLUDING SALVATION JANE, PLUS SOME EXOTIC SHRUBS. HARDLY THE THING FOR

A NATIONAL PARK, EVEN A MINI-NATIONAL PARK.

SECONDLY, THEN, WHAT ABOUT THE BLOCK AS OPEN SPACE? THAT WAS A POSSIBILITY AND THE POSSIBILITY WAS REFERRED TO THE STATE PLANNING OFFICE. THEY REPORTED BACK THAT THEY HAD EXTENSIVE COMMITMENTS PLANNED LONG AGO, FOR THE ACQUISITION OF OPEN SPACE IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA, AND COULD NOT PROVIDE FOR ODD EXTRA PARCELS OF LAND LIKE THIS.

WE COME TO THE POINT HERE, I THINK, WHERE WE HAVE TO DECIDE ARE WE GOING TO PLAN OUR LAND ACQUISITION CAMPAIGN PROPERLY OR DO IT PIECEMEAL? KALYRA WAS NOT AN ISOLATED INSTANCE. THERE HAVE BEEN MANY CASES OF LAND, BOTH IN THE METROPOLIS AND OUT IN THE COUNTRY, WHICH PEOPLE BELIEVED OUGHT TO BE PROTECTED IN THE NATURAL STATE OR EVEN LEFT AS OPEN BREATHING SPACE. WHEN LOCAL COUNCILS DECLINE TO PURCHASE THESE AREAS, APPROACHES ARE THEN MADE TO THE STATE. AT TIMES IT PUTS US IN A SPOT.

WE WOULD LIKE TO HELP BUT THERE IS A LIMIT TO OUR RESOURCES. WE HAVE BEEN SPENDING TO THE UTMOST ON NEW NATIONAL PARKS AND MORE THAN A MILLION DOLLARS HAS GONE ON METROPOLITAN OPEN SPACE. SO, ALTHOUGH WE SYMPATHISE, WE MUST DRAW THE LINE SOMEWHERE.

IF AN AREA IS NOT SUITED TO NATIONAL PARK, IF IT DOES NOT APPEAR ON OUR PLANNED PROGRAMME OF OPEN SPACE PURCHASE, IT MIGHT VERY WELL BE THAT AS IT IS A LOCAL PROBLEM ITS RESOLUTION MUST REST WITH THE LOCAL COUNCIL. IF PEOPLE FEEL SUFFICIENTLY STRONGLY ABOUT THE MATTER, LOCAL PRESSURES SHOULD BE ABLE TO PRESS THE COUNCIL TO ACT.

ANYWAY, IN THE CASE OF KALYRA, WE HAD TO TURN TO THE THIRD ALTERNATIVE - OFFERING A 50% SUBSIDY FOR ITS ACQUISITION BY THE COUNCIL AS A RESERVE. UNFORTUNATELY THE COUNCIL ALSO FOUND ITSELF TOO HEAVILY COMMITTED ELSEWHERE. ALL I CAN GO ON TO SAY ABOUT KALYRA IS THAT I HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT ABOUT 80% OF THE LAND HAS GRADES STEEPER THAN ONE IN FOUR. THUS THERE CAN BE NO REAL LIKELIHOOD OF RESUBDIVISION, NOT INTO NORMAL RESIDENTIAL-SIZED BLOCKS.

AS I HAVE SAID, WHAT HAPPENED AT KALYRA HAS HAPPENED BEFORE - AND IT IS CERTAIN TO BE REPEATED MANY TIMES AND IN MANY PLACES. WE CAN ONLY WORK TO SEE THAT WE DO NOT GET CAUGHT UP WITH THE SAME UNFORTUNATE RESULT.

SOMETIMES WE WILL BE ABLE TO HELP. SOMETIMES WE MAY BE POWERLESS TO ACT. BUT WE ARE WORKING CURRENTLY READJUSTING OUR LAWS AND REGULATIONS SO THAT WE CAN RESPOND BOTH MORE RAPIDLY AND MORE ADEQUATELY TO CALLS OF THIS NATURE. WE ARE, FOR INSTANCE, GOING TO AMEND THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT - WHICH WE PASSED IN 1967 DESPITE CONSIDERABLE OPPOSITION IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL - TO MAKE ABSOLUTELY MANDATORY THE MINIMUM 10 ACRES SIZE AND 300 FEET FRONTAGE FOR ALLOTMENTS WITHIN THE HILLS FACE ZONE. AT THE MOMENT ALTHOUGH THESE LIMITS ARE GENERALLY OBSERVED THERE IS PROVISION FOR OUR PLANNING AUTHORITIES TO WAIVE THEM. THE AMENDMENT WHICH WILL CLOSE THIS POSSIBLE LOOPHOLE WILL BE INCLUDED IN A BILL TO BE INTRODUCED IN THE FEBRUARY SESSION.

WE ARE TIGHTENING UP IN OTHER WAYS TOO.

INTERIM DEVELOPMENT CONTROL HAS BEEN EXERCISED BY THE STATE PLANNING AUTHORITY WITHIN THE HILLS FACE ZONE SINCE EARLY 1968.

THIS MEANS THAT THE AUTHORITY CONTROLS ANY BUILDING DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE ZONE - OR ANY CHANGE OF USE OF ANY LAND.

HOW THIS HAS WORKED OUT IS EXPLAINED BY THE FOLLOWING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR TO JUNE 30 LAST:

THE AUTHORITY RECEIVED 167 APPLICATIONS FOR CONSENT EITHER TO BUILD WITHIN THE ZONE OR CHANGE THE USE OF LAND WITHIN THE ZONE.

OF THESE, 39 WERE APPROVED

114 WERE APPROVED SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS, and

3 WERE REFUSED.

11 WERE STILL BEING CONSIDERED ON JUNE 30.

WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT IS THAT PLANNING REGULATIONS WILL SUPERSEDE THIS INTERIM CONTROL.

THE REGULATIONS HAVE BEEN RECOMMENDED BY THE AUTHORITY AND WILL BE GAZETTED SHORTLY.

THESE REGULATIONS CONTAIN DETAILED PLANS. THESE SHOW THE BOUNDARIES OF THE HILLS FACE ZONE. THUS ANY PERSON WILL BE ABLE TO DETERMINE EXACTLY WHERE THE ZONE BOUNDARIES LIE. AT PRESENT, PLANS SHOWING THE DETAILED

BOUNDARIES ARE HELD WITHIN THE STATE PLANNING OFFICE WHERE, OF COURSE, THEY ARE AVAILABLE READILY FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION.

AND I MIGHT REMARK HERE THAT THE KALYRA SANATORIUM LAND DOES NOT LIE WITHIN THE ZONE.

AND, FURTHER, AN APPROACH BY THE MITCHAM COUNCIL TO HAVE THE ZONE EXTENDED TO INCORPORATE THE PROPERTY HAS YET TO BE DECIDED. IT WILL BE COMING BEFORE THE PLANNING AUTHORITY NEXT TUESDAY.

I SHOULD NOT THINK THAT THE COUNCIL CAN EXPECT AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE, OR NECESSARILY A FAVOURABLE ONE. THE PROCEDURE IN ZONING LAND OF THIS NATURE IS NECESSARILY COMPLEX AND WILL TAKE CONSIDERABLE TIME. BEFORE REGULATIONS COULD BE MADE, THE 1962 DEVELOPMENT PLAN WOULD HAVE TO BE AMENDED.

IN ANY EVENT THE KALYRA LAND DOES NOT ADJOIN THE HILLS FACE ZONE. IT IS AN ISOLATED POCKET AND IS ALREADY DIVIDED INTO A NUMBER OF SEPARATE ALLOTMENTS. HOWEVER, DESPITE ALL THESE DAMPENING FACTORS, POWER DOES RESIDE IN EXISTING LAW TO REFUSE APPLICATIONS TO RESUBDIVIDE THE

PROPERTY IF THE LAND IS UNSUITABLE BY REASON OF ITS SLOPE. AN APPEAL DOES LIE IN THE PLANNING APPEAL BOARD SHOULD ANY APPLICATION BE REFUSED. NOW, TO A RELATED MATTER, BUT ONE WHICH APPLIES TO A MUCH WIDER AREA AND INVOLVES LESS ABOUT THE FINE PRINT AND MORE ABOUT GENERAL PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE BALANCE BETWEEN PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT.

I REFER TO AN ITEM WHICH SOME OF YOU MAY HAVE SPOTTED A FEW WEEKS BACK IN THE "PUBLIC NOTICES" SECTION OF PRESS ADVERTISEMENT COLUMNS, HEADED METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND REFERRING IN PARTICULAR TO A STUDY OF THE MOUNT LOFTY RANGES. THE PLANNING AUTHORITY HAS DECIDED TO REVISE THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE STIRLING AREA AND OTHER PARTS OF THE MOUNT LOFTY RANGES EAST OF THE HILLS FACE ZONE. THIS DECISION FOLLOWS THE PUBLIC EXHIBITION OF DRAFT PLANNING REGULATIONS BY THE STIRLING DISTRICT COUNCIL.

IT IS NOW OPEN TO ANYBODY OR ANY ORGANISATION TO SUBMIT THEIR OPINIONS IN WRITING BY DECEMBER 31 ON DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE WITHIN THIS REGION



-- WHICH DOES NOT INCLUDE THE BLACKWOOD-BELAIR AREA. IT TAKES IN THE COUNCIL AREAS OF STIRLING, EAST TORRENS, MUNNO PARA, TEA TREE GULLY, MEADOWS, NOARLUNGA AND WILLUNGA.

IF I MIGHT SET THE SCENE A LITTLE MORE THOROUGHLY ... MOST OF OUR CURRENT PLANNING STEMS FROM THE VERY THOROUGH 1962 METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT PLAN WHICH AFTER THE PASSAGE OF OUR PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT IN 1967 BECAME THE OFFICIAL METROPOLITAN PLAN.

ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO THE PLANNING AUTHORITY DECIDED TO RE-EXAMINE THE METROPOLITAN AREA, WITH THE AIM OF PREPARING A SUPPLEMENTARY PLAN TO DEAL WITH CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES AND NEW POLICY IMPERATIVES.

HOWEVER THIS RE-EXAMINATION IS NOT NOW BEING CARRIED OUT ALONG THE ENTIRE FRONT. IT HAS BEEN DECIDED TO UPDATE VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE PLAN FROM TIME TO TIME.

YOU WILL HAVE NOTICED THAT A SUPPLEMENTARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR TRANSPORT PROPOSALS ONLY HAS BEEN PREPARED -- AND I MIGHT ADD, BEEN SUBJECT TO AN UNFAIR MEASURE OF QUITE UNINFORMED CRITICISM.

WELL, ONE OF THE NEXT BIG TASKS WILL SEE THE PREPARATION OF A SUPPLEMENTARY PLAN FOR THE HILLS. THIS WILL BE CARRIED OUT VERY MUCH IN THE LIGHT OF GROWING PUBLIC CONCERN WHICH SUPPORTS A GREATER DEGREE OF RESTRICTION OF DEVELOPMENT THAN ENVISAGED BY THE PLANNERS OF 1962. WE WOULD HAVE SET THIS HILLS STUDY IN TRAIN EARLIER BUT A DEBATE INITIATED IN THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HELD US UP. THE COUNCIL HAD MOVED TO DISALLOW CONTROL OF LAND SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS WHICH STRENGTHENED SUBDIVISION CONTROL POLICY. THIS STARTED AN EXTENSIVE DEBATE.

THE REGULATIONS IN QUESTION WERE ONLY REMOVED FROM THE POSSIBILITY OF BEING DISALLOWED FOLLOWING THE END OF THE APRIL PARLIAMENTARY SESSION WHEN THE COUNCIL MOTION, PROPOSED BY A LIBERAL MEMBER FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT, MR. KEMP, LAPSED. WHILE THIS DEBATE WAS PROCEEDING, IT WAS THOUGHT BEST TO DELAY THE HILLS STUDY.

SO, GRADUALLY WE ARE MOVING TO GUARD AGAINST UNDESIRABLE DEVELOPMENT -- NOT, I MUST ADD, AGAINST ALL DEVELOPMENT FOR WE MUST WATCH THAT ECONOMIC

PROGRESS IS NOT UNNECESSARILY RETARDED. AFTER ALL WE MUST EARN SOME MONEY IN ORDER THAT WE CAN FINANCE OUR CONSERVATION MEASURES!

WE HAVE A FAIR AMOUNT THAT I THINK WILL MEET YOUR APPROVAL WAITING IN OUR RATHER CROWDED LEGISLATIVE PIPELINE.

WE HAVE JUST HAD PASSED A NEW MINES ACT WHICH GIVES VERY FAR REACHING POWER TO THE CONSERVATION MINISTER, GLEN BROOMHILL. QUARRIES, I SUPPOSE, WOULD BE YOUR MAIN CONCERN IN THIS AREA. AND YOU WOULD KNOW THAT THE INTERIM POWERS THE PLANNING AUTHORITY IS AT PRESENT USING FOR CONTROLLING HILLS FACE DEVELOPMENT ARE AMPLE FOR EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF THE OPENING OF ANY NEW QUARRY.

HOWEVER, WE HAVE RUN INTO A LITTLE TROUBLE. A DECISION OF THE SUPREME COURT, HANDED DOWN LAST YEAR ESTABLISHED THAT THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF AN EXISTING QUARRY DID NOT NORMALLY REQUIRE THE AUTHORITY'S CONSENT. AN AMENDMENT TO COVER THIS SHOULD BE COMING UP IN THE FEBRUARY SESSION. MANY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL OPERATIONS LIE WITHIN THE PROVINCE OF MINISTRIES LIKE MINES OR WORKS OR PUBLIC HEALTH BUT GRADUALLY WE ARE

INTRODUCING A GENERAL OVERALL SUPERVISION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION. THIS DEPARTMENT, ONLY ABOUT A YEAR OLD, HAS HAD TO FIGHT ITS WAY THROUGH SIZEABLE ADMINISTRATIVE THICKETS. NOW THERE IS LIGHT AHEAD. SHORTLY WE WILL BE ANNOUNCING WHO HAS BEEN APPOINTED TO THE KEY POST OF DIRECTOR OF THE ENVIRONMENT. EARLY NEXT YEAR WE EXPECT VALUABLE EXPERT GUIDANCE IN THE FINAL REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE WILL THEN BE CONFIRMED, THOUGH IN SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT FORM, AS A PERMANENT ADVISORY BODY. WE WILL BE LEANING HEAVILY ON THE SORT OF ADVICE THEY WILL BE QUALIFIED TO GIVE.

AND THAT COULD BE THE CUE FOR A FINAL POINT WHICH CONCERNS THE ROLE OF EMOTIONS IN THE LIVELY CONSERVATION DEBATE. FOR MOST CONSERVATION ISSUES, WHETHER THEY REFER TO THE PRESERVING OF HISTORICAL BUILDINGS LIKE THE A.N.Z. BANK OR THE POST OFFICE AT KAPUNDA OR THE PRESERVING OF SITES OF NATURAL BEAUTY OR SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE, INEVITABLY INVOLVE

A RESPONSE OF THE HEART. THIS IS QUITE NATURAL AND EVEN COMMENDABLE. IT CAN, HOWEVER, CAUSE SOME DIFFICULTIES AS THE HEART IS NOT ALWAYS THE BEST GUIDE. WHEN EMOTIONS ARE ROUSED AND THIS CAN BE EASILY ACHIEVED, THE BEST COURSE AT TIMES CAN BE MISSED.

TAKE THE SUSPECTED OIL SPILL OFF THE SOUTH EASTERN COAST EARLIER THIS YEAR. IT WAS A TRAGIC TIME FOR PENGUINS ALONG THE COAST AND PEOPLE BECAME EMOTIONAL ABOUT THEIR PROTECTION. IT WAS THOUGHT THAT OIL SPILT BY A PASSING TANKER HAD BADLY AFFECTED THESE BIRDS, DISABLING SOME, KILLING OTHERS. THERE WERE ALMOST IMMEDIATE CRIES THAT WE SHOULD GO OUT AND "BOMB" THE OIL SPILL WITH DETERGENT TO BREAK IT UP. THERE WAS ALSO A MOVE TO HELP DISTRESSED PENGUINS ALONG THE SHORE BY WIPING THEM DOWN WITH DETERGENT. THESE WERE REACTIONS FROM PEOPLE WITH WARM HEARTS. WERE THE EXPERTS IN OUR FAUNA CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT ANY LESS WARN-HEARTED? I DOUBT IT. BUT THEY USED THEIR HEADS TOO. THEY WANTED TO BE MORE CERTAIN WHAT HAD ACTUALLY HAPPENED. THEIR DELAY WAS CRITICISED. BUT WHAT DID THE DELAY UNCOVER? IT REVEALED THAT "BOMBING" WITH

DETERGENT WOULD HAVE BEEN A TRAGIC MISTAKE AND THAT INDISCRIMINATE WIPING OF PENGUINS WITH DETERGENT WOULD DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD. IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT THE MAJOR FACTOR CAUSING DISTRESS TO THE PENGUINS WAS AN UNUSUALLY PROLONGED SPELL OF VERY HEAVY SEAS. THERE MAY HAVE BEEN SOME MINOR OIL SPILLAGE BUT WHAT IN FACT WAS ORIGINALLY THOUGHT TO BE TANKER DISCHARGE WAS SOMETHING VERY DIFFERENT - THE WELLING UP FROM THE SEABED OF SOME NATURAL BITUMINOUS-TYPE SUBSTANCE WHICH HAD BEEN NOTICED ALONG THE SOUTH EAST COAST ON MANY OCCASIONS IN THE PAST. LAVISH USE OF DETERGENT IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO NOTHING BUT THE DOWNFALL OF THE EXHAUSTED BIRDS.

SO, YOU WILL UNDERSTAND WHY WE HESITATE TO CHARGE HEAD-FIRST INTO SOME OF THESE TECHNICAL MATTERS. YOU WILL ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT DEMOCRACY ITSELF DEMANDS THAT OUR PLANNING FOR PRESERVATION CANNOT BE PRECIPITATE. PEOPLE ARE INVOLVED, COUNCILS ARE INVOLVED, IN THE TYPE OF HILLS REGULATIONS WE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING - AND PEOPLE AND COUNCILS MUST BE

ALLOWED THEIR SAY BEFORE RESTRICTIONS ARE IMPOSED.

THE PLANNING AUTHORITY HAS, QUITE NECESSARILY, EVOLVED AN ELABORATE SERIES OF STEPS IN ITS PROCEDURES INVOLVING DEMOCRATIC CONSULTATION. BUT, OF COURSE, ONCE WE COME TO THE END OF THE LINE, THE POLICIES AGREED UPON AND THE LIMITS OF DEVELOPMENT DRAWN, THEN, BUT ONLY THEN, CAN WE SAY TO DISAPPOINTED DEVELOPERS : "NO IT IS TOO LATE. YOU HAVE HAD YOUR CHANCE AND THIS IS WHAT APPLIES, WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT." MR. CHAIRMAN, I AM GLAD TO BE HERE TONIGHT. I HOPE I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT WE AS A GOVERNMENT ARE WILLING TO BACK OUR CONSERVATION IDEALS WITH DOLLARS, ALTHOUGH THEY ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY. I WISH I COULD SAY THE SAME ABOUT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

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